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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT
MONDAY, JULY 25, 2005

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL
3 Turks Killed in Egypt - Vatan
Terror Spreading: Al-Qaeda Kills 88 in Egypt - Turkiye 7/24
Pope Benedict Denounces Terrorist Attacks - Sabah
Fadlallah Issues Fatwa to Ban Attacks Against Civilians - Hurriyet
Al-Qaeda Claims to Hold Algerian Diplomats - Milliyet 7/24
Turkish Engineer Abducted in Iraq - Sabah 7/24
Four Turks in Bulgarian Council of Ministers - Milliyet
Iran Hangs Two Teenagers for Sodomy, Theft - Hurriyet 7/24

OPINION MAKERS

Terror Targets Egypt: 88 Killed in Sharm al-Sheikh - Radikal 7/24
Erdogan: Egypt Bombings an Attack Against Humanity - Yeni Safak 7/24
Washington Post: Bin-Ladin Ordered Egypt Attack - Cumhuriyet
Egyptian Police Hunt for Terrorists - Radikal
Zebari Warns Turkey Against Entering Iraq - Cumhuriyet
Iraq: Turkish Cross-Border Incursion Will Damage Stability - Zaman
Suicide Truck Attack Kills 40 in Baghdad - Radikal
NYT: Resistance in Iraq Grows Tougher - Zaman
Blast Injures 12 in Beirut Shortly After the Rice Visit - Zaman 7/24
British Police Acknowledge Arbitrary Killing - Cumhuriyet 7/24
56 Percent of UK Muslims 'Understand' Terrorists' Motives - Radikal
45 Percent of Americans Expect New Attacks Against US - Cumhuriyet
US General Kamiya: Taliban Arms Children in Afghanistan - Yeni Safak

BRIEFING

MFA Condemns Sharm al-Sheikh Attacks: The Turkish Foreign Ministry (MFA) condemned the terrorist bomb attacks staged in the Egyptian resort of Sharm al-Sheikh on Saturday which killed at least 83 and wounded another 200. 'We consider these bombings as attacks that confirm the need to launch an international fight against terrorism,' the MFA said in a statement. PM Erdogan said that just as with previous terrorist strikes, the Sharm al-Sheikh incident was 'an attack against civilization.' 'I strongly condemn these terrorist attacks, and reiterate my call to the international community to launch a joint fight against terrorism, without making any discrimination. I hope that the assailants will be captured as soon as possible,' Erdogan said. Dailies report that two Turkish nationals are confirmed dead, and two others reported missing in the bombing.

General Tolon on Turkish Cross-Border Operations Against Terrorists: First Army Commander General Hursit Tolon said on Sunday in Turkey's Thracian province of Tekirdag that Turkey does not need permission to carry out operations against PKK terrorists. 'They tell us that they will support us if we continue this fight within our borders, as if anybody has asked for their approval,' Tolon said. He also hinted that Turkey would not hesitate to launch a cross-border operation into Iraq. 'They say we would need to talk first to the independent state there,' Tolon said. 'But what kind of independent state is this?' Tolon criticized the 'double standard' of the 'western world' in describing terrorists who strike Turkey as 'rebels.' Tolon was referring to reported criticism by the Dutch ambassador at a meeting of EU envoys in Ankara last month, during which the

Dutch ambassador had cautioned that Turkish military operations against PKK terrorists in southeast Turkey were causing concern in the EU.

Zebari Opposes Any Military Intervention in Iraq: Iraq's Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari voiced opposition to any regional military interference in Iraqi affairs, whether Turkish, Iranian or Arab, Monday papers report. 'An intervention would destroy confidence and shift the focus when our priority is on completing the political process, improving the security situation and providing basic services in Iraq,' Zebari said. He added that PKK militants are in regions outside the control of Baghdad and the regional Kurdish authority. 'If they move, the American forces will arrest them. We have an obligation to Turkey to prevent all non-Iraqi armed groups from carrying out activities against neighboring countries,' Zebari stressed.

Bomb Wounds Two in Central Istanbul: A Dutch tourist and a Turkish waiter were wounded on Saturday night when a bomb exploded in a restaurant on the famous Galata Bridge in central Istanbul. Witnesses have reported that the bomb was placed in a bag that was left under a table at the restaurant. There has been no claim of responsibility for the attack.

Syria's al-Muallem Meets FM Gul: Syrian Deputy Foreign Minister Walid al-Muallem conveyed a message from FM Farouq al-Shara to FM Abdullah Gul on Friday, weekend papers report. In a press conference after meeting with Gul, al-Muallem lauded the Turkey's approach toward Syria and other countries in the region. He stressed that Damascus was grateful to PM Erdogan for telling Washington to launch efforts to win Syrian support instead of isolating the country in the international arena. Papers speculate that Syrian President Assad is planning to spend his holiday in Turkey. 'I can announce that our president and his wife will be very happy to visit Turkey in the near future,' al-Muallem said. Responding to a question, the Syrian deputy FM also reminded that former US Secretary of State Colin Powell had emphasized that many Americans' lives were saved thanks to information provided by Syria. 'Given all of this, the fact that Syria is still on the terrorism list shows that the US does not have an impartial stand,' al-Muallem said. An official from the US Embassy in Ankara is reported by "Sabah" as saying that both Turkey and the US wanted an end to Syrian support for the instability in Iraq and Lebanon. 'Nevertheless, Turkey and the US don't necessarily agree on the tactics. We have openly conveyed to Turkey our anxiety concerning Syria's activities,' the official said.

EU Envoys Urge All in Turkey to Condemn Violence: The heads of mission of EU countries in Ankara, gathered under the chairmanship of the UK as acting president, said that all political groups in Turkey, a country preparing to begin entry talks with the EU, must condemn all forms of violence. Diplomatic sources recalled that the Netherlands, as then-acting president of the EU, had urged Diyarbakir mayor Osman Baydemir in April 2005 to distance himself from statements by imprisoned leader of the PKK, Abdullah Ocalan. The EU envoys discussed terrorism in light of recent events in Turkey, the UK, and elsewhere. The UK and Irish representatives voiced gratitude for the sympathy shown by the Turkish people following the July 16 bombing in Kusadasi. They also praised Turkish authorities for their efforts following that attack, in which both British and Irish nationals were among the victims.

Erdogan Due to Visit London: In his upcoming visit to the UK this week, Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan will emphasize that Turkey supports the fight against terrorism, Monday papers report. During his meeting with Prime Minister Tony Blair, papers expect Erdogan to express his anxiety about security operations that target Muslims in the UK. Erdogan will also address the British nation to urge the people not to harbor hostility toward Muslims. He will stress that terrorism is a threat to humanity, and that terror attacks cannot be carried out on behalf of any religion.

Upcoming High Military Council Meeting: Turkey's High Military Council (YAS) will hold its annual meeting on August 1-4, papers report. The meeting will be chaired by Prime Minister Erdogan. Outgoing Naval Forces Commander Admiral Ozden Ornek will be replaced by Admiral Yener Karahan, and Air Force Commander General Ibrahim Fyrtyna will be replaced by Military Academy Commander General Faruk Comert. Deputy Chief of the Turkish General Staff (TGS), General Ilker Basbug, will replace retiring First Army Commander General Hursit Tolon, and will subsequently become Land Forces Commander in 2006 and Chief of the TGS in 2008. The YAS meeting is also expected to expel 10 officers from the military for involvement in fundamentalist activities.

Sahin on Minority Foundations in Turkey: Despite warnings from the EU, the Turkish government has declined to make

legal adjustments to compensate religious minority foundations for the loss of foundation properties that have been sold to third parties, Monday's "Radikal" reports. Deputy PM Mehmet Ali Sahin said that Turkish regulations with regard to minority foundations are more democratic than those in EU countries. Until recently, religious foundations have faced great difficulties in acquiring property in Turkey, Sahin said, adding that the draft ensured the return of property seized by the state. Sahin also said he was favorable toward the reopening of the Greek Orthodox Halki Seminary in Istanbul, adding that the National Security Council (NSC) would make the final decision on the issue.

Karamanlis Postpones Turkey Visit: Greek PM Kostas Karamanlis, who was expected to make an official visit to Turkey in late August at the invitation of PM Erdogan, has decided to postpone his trip, "Radikal" reported from Athens. Karamanlis decided to put off his visit after some in Greece and Cyprus warned against the danger of visiting Turkey before entry talks with the European Union begin on October 3.

Kurds Want Direct Flights Between Istanbul, Suleymaniye: The Iraqi Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) has proposed to the Turkish authorities direct flights between Istanbul and Suleymaniye Airport, which was opened last week. Ankara is wary of the proposal, and wants to establish flights only between Istanbul and Baghdad. Kurdish officials said the Iraqis are losing valuable time by traveling to Iraq overland after landing in Turkey's southeastern province of Diyarbakir. The Turkish Foreign Ministry (MFA) is so far withholding approval for Istanbul-Baghdad flights pending improvement to the security situation in Iraq.

Five Terrorists Killed in Southeast Turkey: Turkish security forces killed five PKK terrorists, including a woman, in the southeastern province of Sirnak, the governor's office said over the weekend. Rifles, 15 hand grenades, ammunition and 5 kg of C-3 and C-4 explosives were seized in the operation.

Another Turk Abducted in Iraq: A Turkish engineer working at a power plant in Beyci, north of Baghdad, was abducted by unidentified gunmen while traveling from Beyci to Kirkuk, weekend papers report. The identity of the Turk was not immediately known.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Terrorism; Iraq

"The Third World War"

Okay Gonensin commented in the mass appeal "Vatan" (7/25): "Acts of radical Islamist terrorists do not respect concepts such as 'innocent people' and 'rules of engagement.' The possibility of killing Muslims does not even occur to the terrorists. They strongly believe in a fight for the cause, and they are eager to die for it. They believe that they are going to be martyrs, and that any Muslims who die because of their bombings will go to heaven as well. The civilized world cannot possibly find anything rational about attacks carried out with such a mentality. Radical Islam used to work for the destruction of the Soviet Union and the pro-Soviet regime in Afghanistan. The radical Islamists were trained and supported for that purpose by the Western powers, particularly by the Americans. Political Islam was resurrected by the Americans, who believed in the 'green belt' theory at that time. They never figured that what they were playing with would form the basis for today's war. We are currently in the Third World War. Today's war is with radical Islam was caused by American policies."

"US and Terror"

Leftist-nationalist "Cumhuriyet" carried this op-ed (7/25): "There are many injustices in the world, but it is impossible to establish justice through terror. A just and fair system can never be established by murdering innocents. A new world order, based on terrorist tactics, will belong to nobody but the murderers. This is the gist of the issue that is being faced by the entire world. A completely unexpected and hellish situation will prevail unless humanity unites with the idea of eliminating all kinds of terror. . Unfortunately the Bush administration seems to be making a distinction between terror tactics. The Bush administration considers that terrorism against the US is bad, but terrorism against Turkey is not bad at all. This sick approach only provides PKK terrorism with an American shelter. Terrorism is a menace to humanity, and it will create more troubles in the days ahead."

"A Cross-Border Operation May Result in a Clash with the US" Semih Idiz warned in the mass appeal "Milliyet" (7/25): "Everybody in Ankara diplomatic circles warns against the harm of a cross-border operation in Iraq. If the operation happens, it will bring some serious consequences both in already-fragile Turkish-American relations and in Turkish-EU relations, which require the utmost attention. Turkey will

not be able to relax even if such an operation is carried out based on the argument of self-defense contained in UN regulations. It seems that a Turkish cross-border operation in Iraq, if and when it happens, will turn the entire world against Turkey. . A Western diplomat made a remark on the issue that seemed to sum up the general approach in foreign circles. The remark was about Turkey's need to focus on solving the Kurdish issue internally instead of focusing on the Kandil mountains, 'otherwise no cross-border operation, even if conducted 50 times, will change this reality.' Interestingly enough, this view is shared by some Arab diplomats as well. . Many arguments can be made to justify Turkey's sensitivities. But military and civilian planners are required to act realistically, not emotionally, no matter how upset they may be. Turkey is capable of carrying out such an operation if it really wants to. There is a campaign by some to push for such an operation. But those who advocate an operation should understand that such a course will have a price for Turkey and will not bring a happy end."

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